medicines and consumables are available to take care of emergency patients. The patient X-ray facility in the emergency is available round-the-clock throughout the year.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. There is no shortage of blankets and bed sheets in the emergency ward. The emergency has a total of 67 stretcher trolleys and all the trolleys are regularly maintained and are in good condition.

(d) Professor In-charge Emergency Services and the Medical Superintendent of the Institute regularly visit emergency ward and take action as required from time to time to upkeep and upgrade patient care services.

Convention on tobacco control

587. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE *be pleased to state*:

(a) whether Government have adopted a framework convention on tobacco control of the World Health Assembly and that ratified by India;

(b) how adoption of this resolution helps Government to regulate advertisements from foreign tobacco firms;and

(c) the total number of countries which have ratified this resolution, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) India signed the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) on 10th September, 2003 and later on ratified the same on 5th February 2004.

(b) The convention calls for a comprehensive ban on cross-border advertising, promotion and sponsorship of tobacco products originating from its territory. In this respect, within the period of five years after entry into force of this convention for that Party, each Party shall undertake appropriate legislative, executive, administrative and/or other measures.

(c) 24 countries have so far ratified the FCTC.